


Study Skills

Capturing the Journey - Journaling



The Lord will
watch over
your coming
and going
both now and
forevermore.

Psalm 121: 8

1st Sunday of Lent 2022

This picture came up on my Facebook feed and really spoke to me today. It's by our Vicar Mina Munns. The image of hiking. Me, walking through God's creation, reflecting on it's beauty but also a reminder that no matter where I wander God is keeping a watchful eye over me.

It reminded me of C. Richardson (This is our Calling p.1) that "it is within his world that we find purpose, and our vocation". Vocation then is earthy, rooted to the world we are in. I wonder then if I should take more walks in God's world as I contemplate the continuing shape of my vocation?

As I take another look I wonder if the shoes are too clean? Where is the mud? The messiness of life? Have we made vocation too sterile? Is it messier than we first imagine?



Low Sunday April 2022

As a family we went to Muddy Church this afternoon and were encouraged to do a range of activities that helped us connect with God's creation in our local area. I jumped in a puddle Being me I did this with joyful abandon and someone captured the moment.

Looking again at this photo I was reminded of my reflections on vocation and creation at the beginning of Lent, seems a life time ago now ... it's been quite a spiritual journey. The boots are muddy, the coat worn but somehow this image captures the leap of faith needed to live out vocation.... I am flying. Doing the impossible with God.

It's a bit like Peter walking on water, (Matthew 14:28-32) he responded to God's call and he did it, but when he stopped to think about it he sank. We just need to have faith to keep on responding.....

What makes for a good journal

- Clear easy to read
- Reflects on experience e.g. every day life events
- Makes links between life experiences and scripture and uses scripture to bring meaning and understanding to events
- Includes insights from other people, songs, readings, pictures, nature
- Incorporates theological learning and reading
- Element of wondering? Asking questions
- Searching and going deeper
- Progression of thought, learning and spiritual growth over time

The Forum

What are we looking for

Clear evidence that a student has

- **understanding** - shows clarity, depth and detail of **observation**
- **Analysis** - shows critical thinking and **questioning**
- **Reflection** - shows critical thinking and **questioning**
- **Reflexivity** - they can respond to learning and be **transformed** by it
- **Engagement** - with the theory and practice of **others**

Something Practical To Do

If your church has an outside space, what does it say about Creation's call to worship?

Post - Understanding

St John's Churchyard is beautiful. At the nave end Markeaton Brook bubbles along, by the front door there are picnic benches and the memorial garden is tended to weekly by a small dedicated team. Local folk use it regularly.



Something Practical To Do

If your church has an outside space, what does it say about Creation's call to worship? Is it a place that inspires thoughtfulness and peace or is it neglected? What might you do to help change that?

Post - Analysis

St John's Churchyard is beautiful. At the nave end Markeaton Brook bubbles along, by the front door there are picnic benches and the memorial garden is tended to weekly by a small dedicated team. Local folk use it regularly. **Why? Some clearly come to have their lunch here but is there a deeper draw? Do they sense something of God in this space?**

Something Practical To Do

If your church has an outside space, what does it say about Creation's call to worship?

Post - Reflection

St John's Churchyard is beautiful. At the nave end Markeaton Brook bubbles along, by the front door there are picnic benches and the memorial garden is tended to weekly by a small dedicated team. Local folk use it regularly. Why? Some clearly come to have their lunch here but is there a deeper draw? Do they sense something of God in this space?

I wonder what what worship looks like to plants, birds and animals in the Churchyard. I hope we have made a place that is hospitality and enables them to be truly themselves. Jesus was forever using nature in his teaching. Mathew 7:23-30 reminds us that as God cares for the birds, the lilies so he cares for us. Our response to God's loving care is worship. I wonder what worship looks like for a sparrow or a lily?

Something Practical To Do

If your church has an outside space, what does it say about Creation's call to worship?

Post - Reflexivity and Engagement

St John's Churchyard is beautiful. At the nave end Markeaton Brook bubbles along, by the front door there are picnic benches and the memorial garden is tended to weekly by a small dedicated team. Local folk use it regularly. Why? Some clearly come to have their lunch here but is there a deeper draw? Do they sense something of God in this space? I wonder what what worship looks like to plants, birds and animals in the Churchyard. I hope we have made a place that is hospitality and enables them to be truly themselves. Jesus was forever using nature in his teaching. Mathew 7:23-30 reminds us that as God cares for the birds, the lilies so he cares for us. Our response to God's loving care is worship. I wonder what worship looks like for a sparrow or a lily?

Francis's post about their recent rewinding of the churchyard got me thinking. How might we make the garden more hospitable to all God's creatures? We recently got a bird bath but I have a friend who makes bird boxes, we could put some up. A Rocha have some great examples of what others have done and in the light of this have asked for an item on the PCC agenda next month.

So please post intentionally and comment on your fellow students posts including....

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- **Engagement** - with the theory and practice of others